

then heart attacks began
exactng a deadly toll
though he fooled the doctors
by surviving two of them
dad loved life too much
to leave without a fight
the tough son-of-a-bitch
who couldn't write
this one's for my old man.

WHITE ANGEL

-- for Marg Daly

adult services is often
a frustrating, depressing
fucker of a job, but
White Angel manages to
give purpose to the performance.
"face it," she said, "a
lot of our clients are
the pits of the community
care system, too poor or
too much of a problem for
the other agencies. sure,
they're old, sick, senile,
disabled, retarded, crazy,
alcoholic or whatever, but
they're human beings who
deserve a chance. our job
is to be the ones who care."
it's a catharsis talking
to White Angel, a doris day
lookalike inhaling gentleness
and exhaling compassion.

MATURITY

my 19 year old nephew
and 20 year old niece
stop by to visit
and for once i don't
do my crazy uncle stan
routine, we just talk
about my experiences
in social work, their
college educations,
what they want to do
with their lives,

how happy i am writing,
even though it isn't
making me rich.

gary is now 3 or 4
inches taller than i
and kelly is very
attractive and sexy
and poised.

it's very strange
this talk, so damned
casual and intelligent,

with people whose diapers
i used to change, and

now we're behaving like
responsible, mature
adults, until now,

an aspect of my personality
they didn't know existed.

fooled them again.

JACK

jack's a nice guy
loves his wife and family
is fun to drink with
but isn't a man to fuck with
his look alone
can chill your bones

years ago, he killed a man
with his fists
after the guy groped him
in a bar

figures the goddamn queer
had it coming
the 8 years in the slammer
time well spent

transplant jack to an Old West
saloon and the toughest and
craziest gunslingers would turn
their backs to the wall

and wild bill hickok
a reputed frontier fairy
would pray
his wrists didn't suddenly
go limp

-- S. K. Morgan

Lansing MI